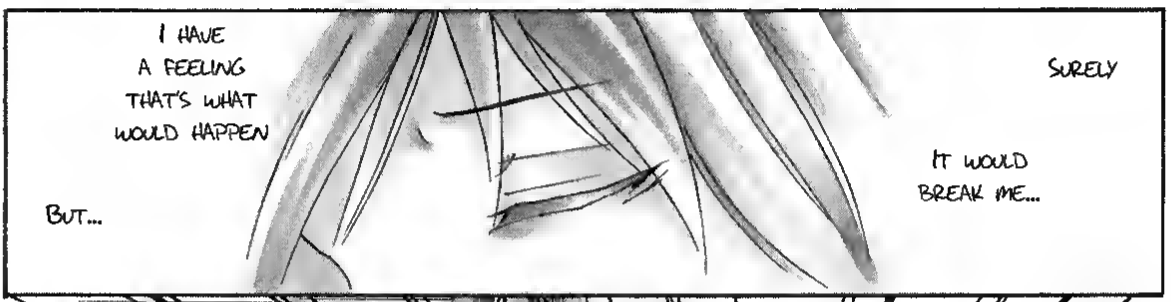
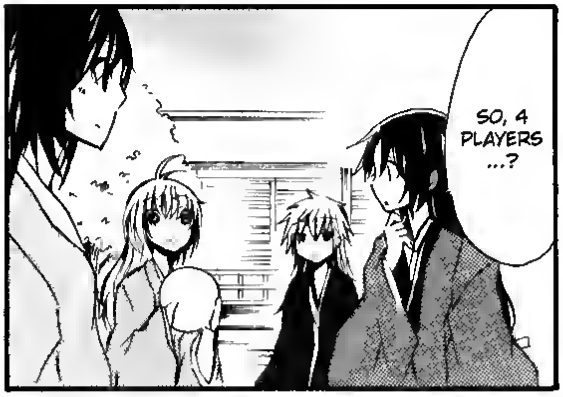
Editor's Note Last time, there were quite a few discussions whether the Emperor would be a girl or a guy Kuzushiro doesn't give any hints about it and avoided the question by answering "In front of a God your gender is trivial" Our translator didn't want to use he/she as often as possible, but was still forced to decide at some points (using they/their/it was out of question though) That's why, for the sake of Yuri, we decided to use "she" from now on

BUT IF I ACCEPT THAT
I CANNOT IGNORE THEM ANYMORE,
RECENTLY I REFRAINED FROM THINKING ABOUT THE THINGS I BURIED DEEP IN MY HEART A LONG TIME AGO.



CHAPTER 26

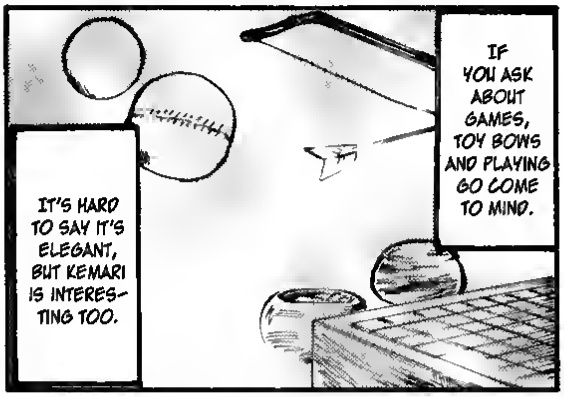
(^ ω ^)



I SEE.
ha ha
IF BY ANY CHANCE SHE GOT HURT, IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS!
ALSO, INVITING THE PRINCESS TO PLAY WITH MY TOTALLY INEXPERIENCED SELF
It's embarrassing

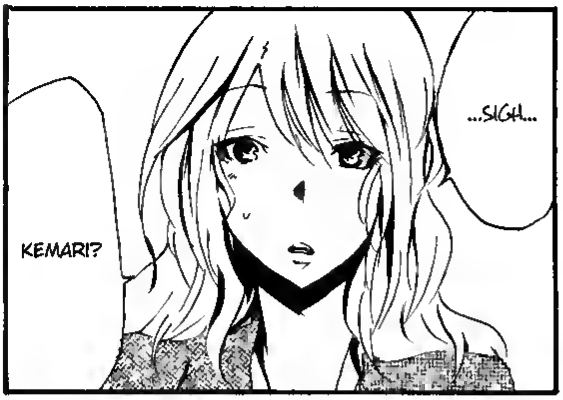
... SHONAGON...?
WELL, SAYING IT LEWDLY, I WANT TO SEE THE PRINCESS HURT AND WITH TEARS IN HER EYES AND WITH BLOOD COMING OUT OF HER KNEES. THEN I WOULD PET HER AND LICK HER HEAD
LICK LICK LICK
STROKE STROKE
haah haah

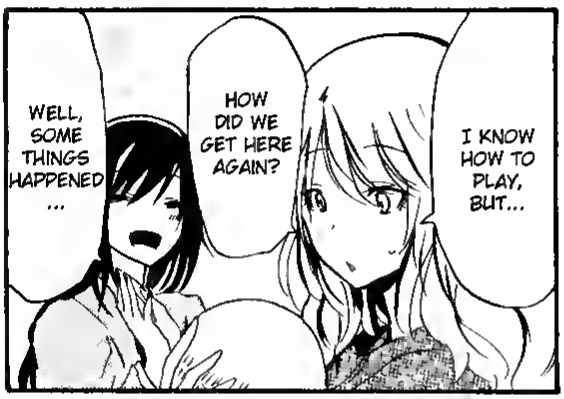
※ LAST TIME THERE WAS SOME STRANGE TENSION

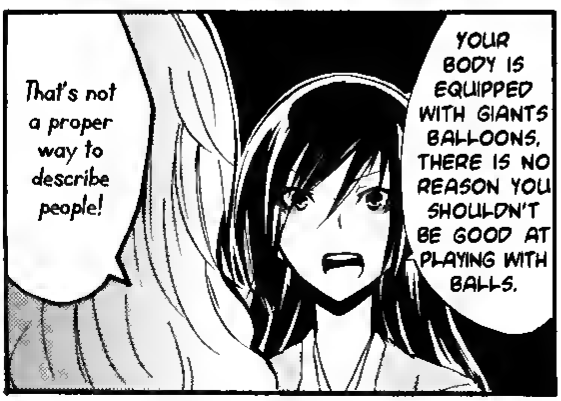


I'VE NEVER PLAYED IT!
LET'S DO IT! KEMARI IS A GAME PLAYED BETWEEN 4 AND 8 PEOPLE AND BECAUSE OF MY RECLUSED LIFESTYLE,
BUT TO EVERYONE IT'S A
S·E·C·R·E·T

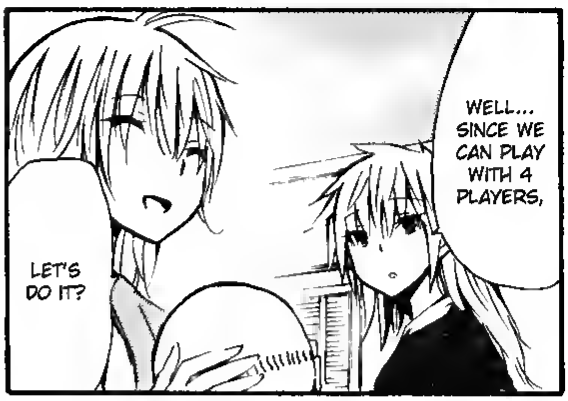
THAT'S THE STORY

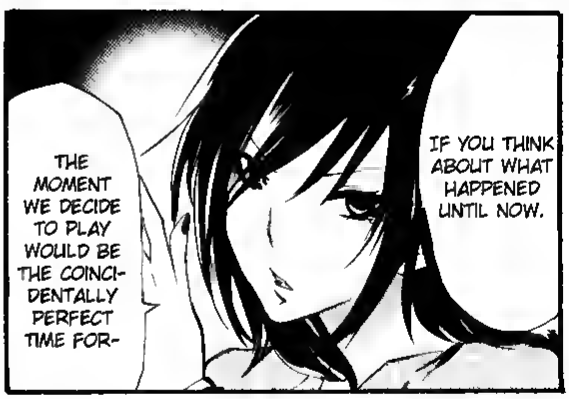


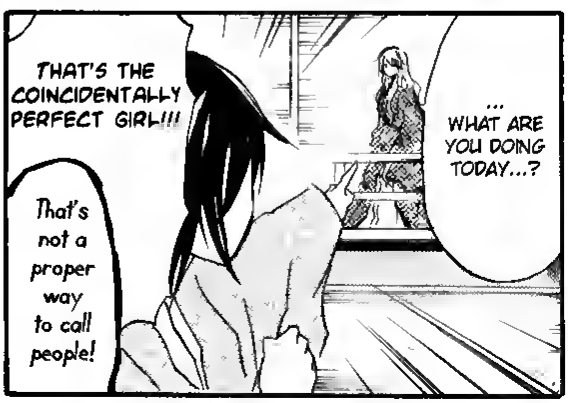


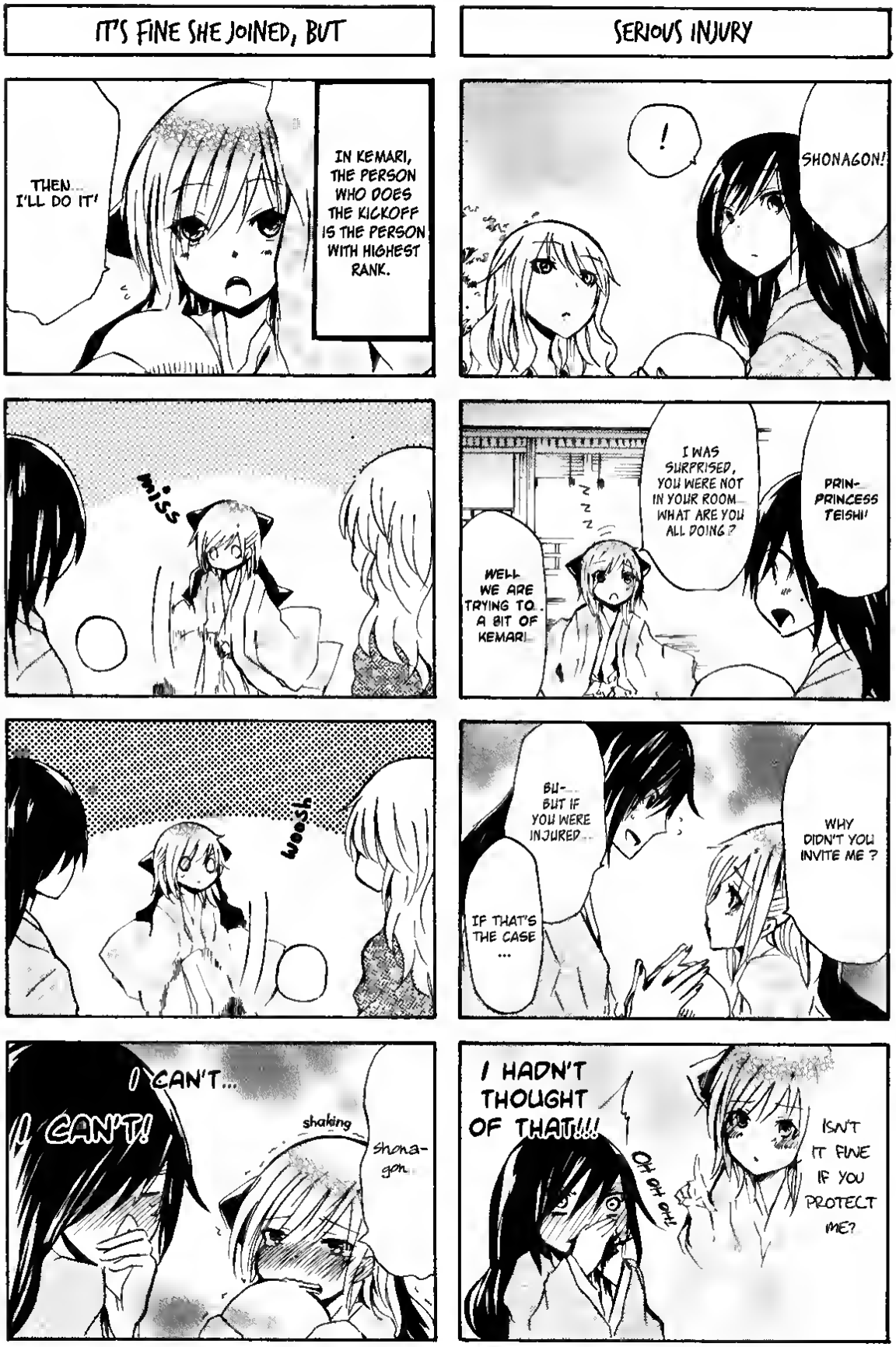

YOUR BODY IS EQUIPPED WITH GIANTS BALLOONS, THERE IS NO REASON YOU SHOULDN'T BE GOOD AT PLAYING WITH BALLS.
That's not a proper way to describe people!

PASSING BY

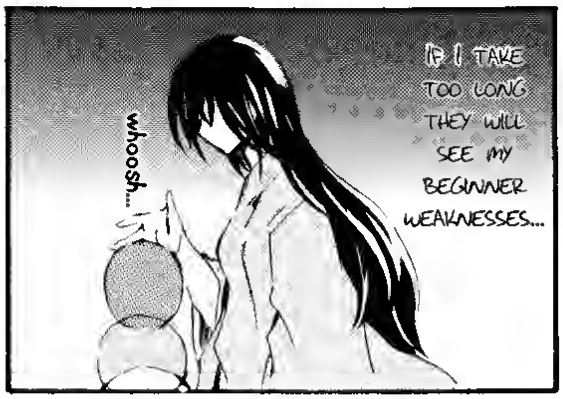


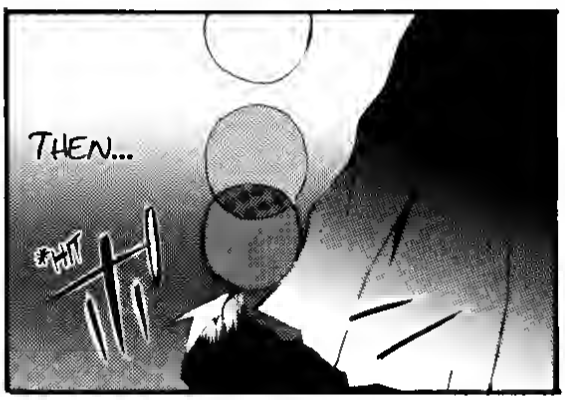





IT'S FINE SHE JOINED, BUT
THEN... I'LL DO IT!
IN KEMARI, THE PERSON WHO DOES THE KICKOFF IS THE PERSON WITH HIGHEST RANK.
SERIOUS INJURY
!
SHONAGON!
miss
PRIN- PRINCESS TEISHI!
I WAS SURPRISED, YOU WERE NOT IN YOUR ROOM... WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?
WELL WE ARE TRYING TO... A BIT OF KEMARI
woosh
BU- BUT IF YOU WERE INJURED...
WHY DIDN'T YOU INVITE ME?
IF THAT'S THE CASE ...
I CAN'T...
I CAN'T!
shaking
shona- gon...
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT!!!
OH OH OH!
ISN'T IT FINE IF YOU PROTECT ME?

THAT'S NOT A GAME





REPLACEMENT

THE STRENGH TO RETORT TOO
THIS KEMARI IS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE I KNOW
IN-... INCREDIBLE! TSUBAKI REFLECTED THE BALL...
TAKE THAT!!!
KE-MARI IS
*KABOOM
HMM... IF IT'S JUST A REFLECTED BALL,
NEXT I'LL-...
out of energy...
!?
CLOSE TO CATCH AND PASS TRAINING,
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. THAT'S...
BUT... EVEN IF I WAS SHOUSHI-SAMA'S SERVANT... AGAINST A SERVANT OF THE PRINCESS...
IT'S A GAME WHERE YOU MUST PUT YOUR WEIGHT ASIDE TO SUC-CEED.
IT-... IT CAN'T BE...
TOO BAD ☆
I DON'T JUST LET THE BALL FALL...
WHEN THE BALL GETS DOWN.
gains speed
I CAN'T LOSE LIKE THIS!!!
*HEAVY THUD
SO—!
...
I HIT LIKE THUNDER
BAAAAANG
+ *CHARGING
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD TURN INTO THAT BUT OH WELL-
What kind of match is that...?

"SUDDEN RISE
...HAHA...
AS I EXPECTED, RIGHT NOW YOU TOO-...
!?
That's a lie.. Right?...
...CERTAINLY...
IT WORKED...
She caught that ball..!?
In this match
"CHARGING"
Even as a beginner who doesn't know the rules
It's getting worse!?
I'M GOING TO RETURN IT TWICE AS FAST!!!
"SUPER-CHARGED SHOT
THAT BATTLE CONTINUED UNTIL THE BALL BROKE. SOMEHOW IT LASTED FOR A TOTAL OF 3 AND A HALF HOURS.
Aaah. There's nothing we can do to stop them.

IT BECAME THE PERFECT ENTERTAINEMENT
I'm sorry...
IT ALREADY REACHED A CLIMAX WITH JUST YOU TWO...
THE GAME CAME TO END BECAUSE THE BALL BROKE.
LOOK AT THAT
ha
ha
I-... BECAUSE I WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH...
YOU KNOW... SO...
No...I can't...
Hey, let's do another match?
!?
THE BIGGEST SHOCK OF THE DAY.
splurt
IF YOU TEACH ME BY GIVING ME A PRIVATE LESSON, THEN I'LL ALLOW IT.
haa
haa
Ah... Its wide open and the inside is really wet.. (the ball)
Anyway, since it already came... (the ball)
...IS THIS PERSON FINE? IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WENT THROUGH A LOT...
MY WHOLE BODY IS CREAKING...
CREAK CREAK
THEN THE SHOCK OF THE DAY AFTER.
I shouldn't say anything...
BROTHER, IT'S BECOMING A WONDERFUL SPECTACLE!

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